IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium including a set of instructions executable by a processor, the set of instructions operable to:

receive a software module, the software module including references to locations within the software module, at least some of the references being backward references; and

reorder components of the software module into a predetermined order <u>to remove</u> <u>at least some of the backward references, wherein each of the components includes one of a</u> <u>plurality of section types and the reordering of the components is</u> based on [[a]] <u>the section</u> type <u>for each</u> of the components to remove at least some of the backward references,

wherein the components <u>further</u> include at least one of a header, a section, and a table,

wherein the reordered software module includes the at least some of the backward references, and

wherein the at least some of the backward references in the reordered software module are stored in a memory to avoid a nonsequential reading of the reordered software module.

2. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the set of instructions is further operable to:

adjust at least one of the references in the software module to reflect the reordering of the components of the software module, so that the at least one of the references remains a reference to the same component, but to the component's new, reordered location, the new, reordered location coming after the at least one reference in the software module.

3. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 2, wherein the software module includes a symbol table, the symbol table including backward references when the reordering of the components of the software module and adjusting the at least one of the references have been completed.

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4. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 2, wherein the software module includes a symbol table, the software module including no backward references in locations before the symbol table when the reordering of the components of the software module and adjusting the at least one of the references have been completed.

5. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 2, wherein the software module is a relocatable object code module in ELF format when the reordering the components of the software module and adjusting the at least one of the references have been completed.

6. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 5, wherein, when the software module is received, the software module is a relocatable object code module in ELF format, and wherein, when the reordering the components of the software module and adjusting the at least one of the references have been completed, the software module includes a symbol table, the symbol table including backward references, and the software module includes no backward references from locations before the symbol table.

7. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the software module comprises at least one segment, each at least one segment comprising at least one section, and wherein sections in the same segment are contiguously located in the software module when the reordering of the components of the software module has been completed.

8. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 1, wherein, when the software module is received, the software module is a relocatable object code module in ELF format.

9. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a memory storing a reorder module configured to receive a software module including references to locations within the software module, at least some of the references being backward references, the reorder module configured to reorder components of the software

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module into a predetermined order <u>to remove at least some of the backward references, wherein</u> <u>each of the components includes one of a plurality of section types and the reordering of the</u> <u>components is</u> based on [[a]] <u>the section</u> type <u>for each</u> of the components ~~and remove at least~~ ~~some of the backward references~~, the components <u>further</u> including at least one of at least one of a header, a section, and a table; and

a processor executing the reorder module, wherein the reordered software module includes the at least some of the backward references, and

wherein the at least some of the backward references in the reordered software module are stored in a memory to avoid a nonsequential reading of the reordered software module.

10. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the reorder module is configured to adjust a reference in the software module to reflect the reordering of the components of the module.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the software module includes a symbol table, and wherein the reorder module is configured not to remove backward references from the symbol table.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the software module includes a symbol table, and wherein the reorder module is configured to remove all backward references from locations before the symbol table in the reordered software module.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the software module includes at least one segment, each of the at least one segments including at least one section, and the reorder module is configured to locate sections in the same segment contiguously in the reordered software module.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the software module is a relocatable object code module in ELF format, and the reordered software module is a relocatable object code module in ELF format.

15. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein the software module includes a symbol table, wherein the reorder module is configured to adjust a reference in the software module to reflect the reordering of the components of the module, wherein the reorder module is configured to remove all backward references from locations before the symbol table, and wherein the reorder module is configured not to remove backward references from the symbol table.

16-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reordering of the components of the software module is completed prior to linking the software module.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein the set of instructions is further operable to:
link the reordered software module.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the set of instructions is further operable to:
transfer the reordered software module to a different computer system; and
linking the reordered software module on the different computer system.

43. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reordered components include an ELF data section.

44. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reordered components include an ELF code section.

45. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reordered components include an ELF header table.

46. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reordered components include an ELF entry point table.

47. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reference points to a section located prior to the reference in the received software module.

48. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 47, wherein, after the software module has been reordered, the reference is changed to point at the same section, the section having been relocated to appear after the reference in the reordered software module.

49. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reference points to a table located prior to the reference in the received software module.

50. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 49, wherein, after the software module has been reordered, the reference is changed to point at the same table, the table having been relocated to appear after the reference in the reordered software module.

51. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reference points into a section located prior to the reference in the received software module.

52. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 51, wherein, after the software module has been reordered, the reference points into the same section, the section having been relocated to appear after the reference in the reordered software module.

53. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the reference points into a table located prior to the reference in the received software module.

54. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 53, wherein, after the software module has been reordered, the reference is changed to point into the same table, the table having been relocated to appear after the reference in the reordered software module.

55. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium including a set of instructions executable by a processor, the set of instructions operable to:

receive a software module, the software module including components arranged in a first order, <u>wherein each of the components includes one of a plurality of section types and</u> a first one of the components including a reference to a location in a second one of the components, the second one of the components preceding the first one of the components in the first order; and

arrange the components into a predetermined second order to produce a reordered software module so that the second one of the components is subsequent to the first one of the components in the second order, wherein the arrangement is based on [[a]] <u>the section</u> type <u>for each</u> of the first and second ones of the components,

wherein the components <u>further</u> include at least one of a header, a section, and a table,

wherein the reordered software module includes at least one reference from a third component to a preceding component, and

wherein the at least one reference from the third component is stored in a memory to avoid a nonsequential reading of the reordered software module.

56. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 55, wherein the arranging occurs prior to linking the software module.

57. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 56, wherein the set of instructions is further operable to:

linking the software module without storing the entire software module in local memory.

58. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 57, wherein the components include an ELF table and an ELF section.

59. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 58, wherein the order of segments within the ELF section is preserved when the section is moved to a different

position in the reordered software module.

60. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 59, wherein the only backward references between different ELF components in the reordered software module are references located in the ELF symbol table..